



THE SCOOP

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*** TIME TO GIVE THANKS**

Monthly Director's Column

By Don Steen, Director

Missouri Department of Agriculture

November is a time for giving thanks, spending time with family and turkey. Turkey isn't just for the holidays anymore but it sure makes that Thanksgiving dinner special. I am especially happy to say that I enjoy turkey. As a lifelong turkey farmer, I can say that I am thankful for turkey and for sharing it with others.

This month, Gov. Matt Blunt is once again pardoning the state's official Thanksgiving turkey to bring recognition to Missouri's turkey industry and give school children a great activity to learn more about agriculture. We asked over 1500 Missouri elementary and middle schools to help us narrow down the top five names for this soon-to-be pardoned turkey. Many very creative kids and teachers really stepped up to the plate this year to help us choose some fantastic names. If you haven't voted, log on to MDA's Web site at www.mda.mo.gov to take part in the voting for the infamous turkey name. Vote early and vote often – we have recently found that entire schools are getting behind the turkey voting making it fun for all.

Read more of the Director's Columns.

###

*** VOTE FOR THE MISSOURI PARDONED TURKEY**

Although Election Day has come and gone, you can still vote for one more thing this election season – the Missouri pardoned turkey's name. Gov. Matt Blunt will once again be pardoning a Missouri turkey on Nov. 25 to celebrate Thanksgiving and recognize Missouri's turkey industry and you can join in the fun by helping us name the turkey. Log onto www.mda.mo.gov to join in the celebration and pardoning and vote for your favorite turkey name.

Over 1.5 million votes have been tabulated so far with many days of voting ahead. The polls will close for the turkey naming contest on Monday, Nov. 24 at 12 p.m. (noon). Don't miss your chance to be a part of this election.

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*** AG DEPARTMENT OFFERS NEW SEARCHABLE TIMBER DATABASE**

As a way to help retail and wholesale businesses and the public find treated wood products in Missouri, the Missouri Department of Agriculture has announced a new tool in making that search

easier. The searchable treated timber database located on MDA's Web site at www.mda.mo.gov provides many benefits including ensuring timber dealers are purchasing treated wood products from licensed wood treaters, provides dealers with the ability to search specific commodities and the opportunity to compare prices and provides an outlet for consumers to find Missouri's licensed wood treaters.

To learn more visit [here](#).

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*** SPECIALTY CROP GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE**

The Missouri Department of Agriculture has announced that organizations or groups in Missouri interested in enhancing the competitiveness of the state's specialty crop industry are asked to submit grant proposals. Some examples of these proposals can include research, promotion, marketing, nutrition, trade enhancement, food safety, food security, plant health programs and education. The one-year grants are administered by MDA through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agriculture Marketing Service Specialty Crop Block grant program.

Approximately \$90,000 total is available for the one-year loans. Collaboration and partnerships between groups submitting proposals are encouraged and will be given priority. The deadline for submitting a proposal is Jan. 5, 2009. USDA defines specialty crops as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture). For more information about eligible specialty crops, grant applications or guidelines, visit www.mda.mo.gov or call (866) 466-8283.

###

*** SERIES OF FARMERS' MARKET WORKSHOPS OFFERING MISSOURI PRODUCERS A COMPETITIVE EDGE**

Beginning Nov. 21, the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) will begin a series of statewide farmers' market workshops focused on growing techniques for better sales at farmers' markets, food safety and salesmanship/direct marketing. The workshops will be open to growers and farmers' market masters and will be offered in the following cities: Hannibal, St. Joseph, Fredericktown, Columbia, Blue Springs, St. Peters and Springfield. [View the complete schedule of the workshops.](#)

Workshops are \$15 per person and includes lunch and snacks. For more information or to obtain a registration form, contact Lane McConnell, marketing specialist with MDA, at (573) 751-4339 or Lane.McConnell@mda.mo.gov.

###

*** MISSOURI AGRIBUSINESS ACADEMY NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS**

Do you know a high school student interested in experiencing career opportunities in the agriculture industry? The Missouri Agribusiness Academy is again offering the unique opportunity and academy memberships to 30 Missouri high school sophomores interested in pursuing agriculture-related college degrees and careers. Students are selected through a competitive written application and oral interview process. This year's academy members will tour agribusinesses and meet agricultural leaders in the St. Louis area on June 8-12, 2009.

To be eligible for the Academy, students must come from a farming family or be an active 4-H or FFA member. Applications are available from 4-H extension youth specialists, from FFA

advisors, by visiting the department's Web site at http://www.mda.mo.gov/abd/agribus_academy.htm or by contacting MDA's Market Information and Outreach Program at (573) 751-5618.

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*** MDA BLOG SITES HELP YOU KEEP IN TOUCH WITH MISSOURI PRODUCTS ALL YEAR LONG**

Although Missouri farmers' markets across the state are taking a break for the season, consumers will also be able to learn more about Missouri products all year long through MDA web links and retailers throughout the state. Consumers will have the chance during this off-season to learn more about their favorite farmers' market vendors by logging on to www.mofarmersmarket.blogspot.com and listening to the numerous podcasts – a digital recording of a radio broadcast – featuring Missouri farmers and producers. This month's podcast features Robert Long, co-owner of Flintrock Bison Ranch in Halltown, Mo., who sells his ranch's bison meat at a local farmers' market. New podcasts are featured twice monthly and feature a variety of topics related to Missouri's 140 farmers' markets.

Another great place to keep up with all that Missouri has to offer during this season is the Department of Agriculture's AgriMissouri Showcase located at www.agrimissourishowcase.com. This site also offers podcasting and videos about various Missouri products offered in various retail locations. To view a buyer's guide for Missouri products, visit www.agrimissouri.com.

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*** YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE**

The Missouri State Fair has announced that the application deadline for the Youth in Agriculture Scholarship has changed from October 2008 to February 2009 to lengthen the application process. Seniors graduating in 2009 may apply for the opportunity at the Missouri State Fair's Web site at www.mostatefair.com.

To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria: be a high school senior or be an active 4-H or FFA member, have participated in the Missouri State Fair as a 4-H or FFA exhibitor, have plans to enroll in an accredited Missouri college or university with a major in agriculture and have not sold livestock in any past Missouri State Fair Sale of Champions.

For more information, contact the Missouri State Fair at (800) 422-3247.

###

*** AGRIMISSOURI PARTNERS WITH FCCLA**

The Missouri Department of Agriculture's AgriMissouri program has announced a new partnership with Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) to introduce new STAR events - competitive events - promoting healthy menus focusing on Missouri-grown products. FCCLA is an organization for students through grade 12 who are taking a course in family and consumer sciences education. Healthy AgriMissouri Meals recognizes participants who use family and consumer sciences knowledge and skills to develop a healthy menu focusing on the use of AgriMissouri products. The multi-day menu will feature AgriMissouri products and includes a nutritional analysis, projected cost and a rationale of choices made by the participants.

AgriMissouri is excited to be sponsoring Healthy AgriMissouri Meals allowing students to apply nutritional principles to a real scenario while learning about what is produced and grown in Missouri. To learn more about FCCLA, visit <http://dese.mo.gov/divcareered/fccla.htm>.

###

*** GYPSY MOTH TRAPPING SURVEY COMPLETE FOR 2008**

Nearly 12,000 gypsy moth traps were set out statewide this year by numerous agencies dedicated to controlling the spread of the invasive pest. Officials with the Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Conservation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army and the Missouri National Guard say that 10 moths were captured in 2008.

Gypsy moths were first introduced into the U.S. in 1869 by an accident that led to the current infestation in North America. Since that time, much of the northeastern U.S. has become infested with this forest pest. Oak is the preferred host of gypsy moths and Missouri has 12.5 million acres of oak forest across the state.

Neighboring states to the east and north of Missouri are seeing greatly increased captures this year. Missouri is watchfully working to prevent gypsy moths from establishing here. [Learn how you can help prevent the spread.](#)

###

*** WINE AND GRAPE BOARD ANNOUNCE THEME TO 2009 CONFERENCE**

Sustainability is the theme of the 2009 Midwest Grape & Wine Conference, hosted by Missouri Vintner's Association and Missouri Wine and Grape Board, Feb. 7 - 9 at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. This year's conference will feature three full days of viticulture, enology and marketing sessions with the focus on sustainable practices in the vineyard, winery and beyond. For more information, visit <http://www.midwestgrapeandwineconference.com/>.

###

*** STAFFORD RECEIVES HONORARY AMERICAN FFA DEGREE**

Tony Stafford, executive director of the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority and division director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Ag Business Development, recently received the Honorary American FFA Degree – an award given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment.

The National FFA Organization says they “recognize those who have gone beyond the valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists.” The 81st National FFA Convention was held Oct. 22-25 in Indianapolis. For more information, visit www.ffa.org. Congratulations Tony!

###

*** KLENKLEN AND HALL RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS FROM OFFICE OF U.S. ATTORNEY**

Chris Klenklen, program administrator of MDA's Grain Regulatory Services Program, and Ray Hall, auditor of the Grain Regulatory Services Program, recently received honors at the United States Attorney's Office Awards Ceremony in St. Louis for their work on a licensed grain dealer case. Both Klenklen and Hall were instrumental in the case *U.S. v. Jonathan P. Edwards*.

Edwards was a licensed grain dealer in Missouri through his corporation, Missouri Mills. Edwards entered in contracts with farmers to purchase grain, which he resold to terminal elevators. After Edwards received payments for the grain, he was supposed to pay the farmers for the grain

which he had purchased. Edwards diverted the money from Missouri Mills to pay for personal expenses. As a result, Missouri Mills was unable to pay many farmers in Missouri and Illinois for grain which they sold.

After falsely stating the amount of Missouri Mills' net worth to MDA's Grain Regulatory Services in a renewal grain dealer's license application, Klenklen immediately obtained an order from a state court shutting down Missouri Mills and liquidating its assets. Hall analyzed Missouri Mills' financial records and determined the amount of each farmer's loss.

Jonathan P. Edwards was sentenced to 17 months prison and ordered to pay restitution of almost \$337,000, for mail fraud in connection with his scheme to divert grain proceeds.

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*** EHLENBECK SELECTED FOR HORTICULTURIST AWARD**

Susan Ehlenbeck, an MDA horticulturist in the St. Louis area, was recently selected as the 2008 Robert McAdams Award by her peers in 12 north central states. This award is presented to one horticulture specialist each year for superior achievement in plant pest regulatory work. Ehlenbeck will now be considered for the national Carl Carlson Award. Three employees of the plant pest control bureau at MDA have already won the coveted Carl Carlson Award – more than any other state in the nation. Congratulations and good luck, Susan!

###

*** DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RECOGNIZED FOR STREAMLINING OPERATIONS**

On Oct. 29, Gov. Matt Blunt congratulated state employee work teams for receiving the prestigious Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity and the Missouri Department of Agriculture was recognized for their Mail Consolidation Team. The team recommended solutions that streamlined operations, lowered cost and improved mail services for Missouri state government and was comprised of one or more representatives from each executive state agency, successfully consolidated twenty-three individual mailrooms into one centralized operation, dramatically improving efficiencies in all aspects of mail services. Congratulations to Alan Clements, MDA's fiscal & administrative manager, and his team on achieving this recognition.

###

*** GIVE MISSOURI A TRY – Special featured offered by AgriMissouri™**

Carolyn's Country Cousins Wins Pathfinder Award

Carolyn's Country Cousins Pumpkin Patch and Market is the recipient of the Pathfinder Award, an award that recognizes marketers who draw travelers from niche markets, pointing the way to new markets and how best to reach them.

In 1987, Carolyn and Errie (Buddy) Raasch farmed row crops and sold produce at local farmers markets. Their love of sharing the agricultural experience with others grew into the Carolyn's Country Cousins Pumpkin Patch. Today, the Raasch's host over 80,000 visitors from the general public and 20,000 school children during the six weeks of harvest season. The Raasch's have also been active in developing agricultural classroom curriculum and generous in assisting new business as well as serve on the Missouri Agritourism Committee.

To learn more about Carolyn's Country Cousins Pumpkin Patch and Market visit their Web site at www.carolynscountrycousins.com. Find more AgriMissouri farm destinations in the AgriMissouri Buyer's Guide at www.agrimissouri.com/buyersguide.html.

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*** FEATURED RECIPES – Provided by AgriMissouri™**

Oriental Express Wraps

1 1/2 lb. 95% lean ground beef
1 c. [Lettuce Lizzie's Thai Peanut Ginger Dressing](#)
1 medium cucumber, seeded & chopped
1/2 c. shredded carrot
1/4 c. torn fresh mint leaves
Salt & pepper to taste
12 large Boston lettuce leaves (about 2 heads) or iceberg or romaine lettuce
Fresh mint leaves to garnish

Brown ground beef in large nonstick skillet over medium heat 8-10 minutes or until beef is not pink, breaking it up into small crumbles. Pour off drippings. Stir in Lettuce Lizzie's Thai Peanut Ginger Dressing; heat throughout.

Just before serving, add cucumber, carrots and torn mint; toss gently. Season with salt and pepper. Serve beef mixture in lettuce leaves. Garnish with mint.

This recipe was used on the Beef Showcase Stage at the Missouri State Fair. For more recipes from AgriMissouri™, visit www.agrimissouri.com.

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*** WEEKLY MISSOURI WEIGHTED AVERAGE FEEDER CATTLE REPORT**

Oct. 31, 2008 - Receipts: 28,047, week ago 23,029, year ago 35,507

Published by MDA's Ag Business Development Division – [Market News Program](#)

Compared to last week, steers 2.00 to 4.00 lower, heifers 2.00 to 3.00 lower, Holstein steers under 600 lbs 4.00 to 9.00 lower, over 600lbs steady to 3.00 higher. Demand and supply moderate to light. The feeder cattle market showing some stability this week, albeit at prices well below what sellers had hoped to receive only a few months ago. Support coming from higher futures and stock markets, and higher slaughter cattle prices. Harvest keeping many producers at home in the combine, rather than sitting at the auctions either buying or selling cattle. The receipts did pick up a little this week but still significantly below normal level. Several larger, more uniform lots of higher quality calves at this weeks' auctions, making it easier for order buyers to readily fill loads; Yearling cattle just the opposite, still in short supply, making it considerably more difficult to put together loads for the feedlots. Many of the six weight cattle being tagged as calves or fleshy, indicative of the fact that we have had ample grass, and that producers are taking their calves to heavier weights, hoping for a price increase in the market. Direct slaughter cattle trade this week finding higher prices with live sales steady to 1.00 higher at 90.00-92.00, and dressed sales .50-1.00 higher at 142.00-144.50.

-- Feeder Steer Medium and Large 1

300-400 lbs 98.00-132.00 (116.61); 400-500 lbs 96.00-125.00 (110.43);
500-600 lbs 90.00-114.75 (102.64); 600-700 lbs 89.75-109.75 (98.26);
700-800 lbs 87.50-105.90 (98.62); 800-900 lbs 84.25-102.50 (97.42)

-- Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1
300-400 lbs 87.00-124.00 (100.62); 400-500 lbs 84.50-107.75 (95.92)
500-600 lbs 78.00-102.00 (91.08); 600-700 lbs 81.00-101.00 (92.16)
700-800 lbs 83.50-98.00 (91.34); 800-900 lbs 80.85-83.50(81.52)

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* RELATED LINKS

- **MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE** – Visit www.mda.mo.gov to read the latest agriculture news and events. Also learn more about what the Missouri Department of Agriculture does to help support farmers and producers across the state.
- **AGRIMISSOURI SHOWCASE** – Visit www.agrimissourishowcase.com to hear the latest podcast or read about AgriMissouri products and opportunities.
- **A LOOK AT MISSOURI FARMERS' MARKETS** – Visit www.mofarmersmarket.blogspot.com each day for a complete look at what is going on at farmers' markets in your area.
- **MISSOURI MARKET NEWS** – For up-to-the-minute market information, visit [Missouri Market News](#). Reports are available in html, PDF and mp3 formats. The [Weekly Market Summary](#) is also available online with a free subscription. For more info, call the Market News Hotline at (573) 522-9244.
- **CALENDAR OF EVENTS** – Check out the latest and upcoming events by visiting [MDA's Upcoming Meetings and Events](#).

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